

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: July 6, 2006

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Application for Block Grant Funds Will Be Available for Public Comment

BISMARCK, N.D. -- The North Dakota Department of Health and the North Dakota Department of Human Services have completed the state's application for Federal Title V Block Grant Funds for the federal fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 2006, and ending Sept. 30, 2007. The application will be available for public comment July 10, 2006.

The application includes a description of the state's plan to provide:

- Preventive and primary care services for pregnant women, mothers and infants to age 1.
- Preventive and primary care services for children and adolescents.
- Family-centered, community-based, coordinated care and development of community-based systems of services for children with special health-care needs and their families.

Prior to the application's development, a statewide needs assessment designed to identify service gaps and barriers and to determine important needs in North Dakota's maternal and child population was conducted. The following 10 goals were identified through this process:

- Increase physical activity and healthy weight among women
- Increase the initiation and duration of breastfeeding
- Increase access to preventive dental services for low-income women
- Increase access to preventive health services for women
- Reduce the rate of intentional and unintentional injuries among children and adolescents
- Increase physical activity among preschool and school-age children and adolescents
- Increase the percentage of healthy weight among children and adolescents
- Reduce the impact of chronic health conditions on children
- Improve geographic access to pediatric specialty care providers
- Increase information and awareness about available services

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A copy of the Title V application will be available for public comment July 10, 2006. To receive a copy of the application, interested people may contact either of the following:

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